

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 have been cancelled. Claims 22-33 have been added to the application and are currently pending. Claims 22, 25 and 26 are the independent claims.

Claims 22-25 Are Allowable.

In the previous Office Action, the Examiner indicated that previously presented claims 8-10 and 18 would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form. Applicants have provided new claims 22-25, which correspond one-for-one to cancelled claims 8-10 and 18, except that the new claims have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of the respective base claims. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22-25 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 26-33 Are Allowable Over the Cited References.

To more accurately define the invention, Applicants have added new claims 26-33 to the application. Applicants respectfully submit that these new claim are patentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,539,877 to Winokur, et al. ("Winokur") and U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0070115 to Nguyen, et al. ("Nguyen"), either alone or in combination. For example, independent claim 26 includes the limitation, "assembling said plurality of device error states into a variable-length error record associated with the error condition." Neither of the cited references disclose this feature. Applicants thus respectfully submit that, for at least this reason, claims 26-33 are patentable over the cited references and should be allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. A timely Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any aspect of the application.


Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

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By:


Clyde E. Findley (Reg. No. 50,724)
(Attorneys for Intel Corporation)

KENYON & KENYON
1500 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 220-4200

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